

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. An apparatus for storing one or more electrodes for an automatic external defibrillator comprising:

a cavity for accepting the one or more electrodes, said cavity including:

at least one vertical surface;

a top lateral edge surface meeting the at least one vertical surface and having a first end with at least one hole; and

at least one ridge extending horizontally out from the at least vertical surface of the cavity; and

a lid detachably attached to the cavity, said lid including:

a bottom surface that faces the top lateral edge surface of the cavity;

at least one protrusion for extending into said at least one hole in the top lateral edge surface when the lid is attached to the cavity, wherein said at least one hole and said at least one protrusion form a hinge structure at a hinged end of the lid and cavity; and

a handle rotatably mounted to the lid opposite the hinged end, said handle including a camming surface, wherein said camming surface engages said at least one ridge to create separation between the lid and the cavity as the handle is rotated from a closed position to an open position.

2. The apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising a seal fixed to the bottom surface and removably fixed to the top lateral edge surface of the cavity forming

a sealed enclosure with the cavity in which the electrodes are disposed when the lid is attached to the cavity.

3. The apparatus according to claim 2, wherein as the handle is rotated from the closed position to the open position the seal is simultaneously peeled from the top lateral edge surface of the cavity.

4. The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the cavity includes a mounting bracket to which the electrodes are attached when stored.

5. The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the lid and the cavity are made of a rigid material.

6. The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the lid and the cavity are made of a semi-rigid material.

7. The apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising one or more wires to couple the electrodes to an automatic external defibrillator when the electrodes are stored in the apparatus, said wires being coupled to the electrodes at the mounting bracket.

8. An apparatus for storing one or more electrodes for an automatic external defibrillator comprising:

a container including a top portion, a bottom portion, a cavity for accepting the one or more electrodes, at least one lateral ridge extending horizontally outward from the container, and a hinge disposed at a first end of the container; and

a handle rotatably mounted to the clam shell container at an end opposite the first end, said handle including a camming surface to contact the at least one lateral ridge, wherein said camming surface engages said at least one ridge as the handle is rotated from a closed position to an open position to create separation between the top portion and the bottom portion.

9. The apparatus according to claim 8, further comprising a single use seal disposed between the top portion and the bottom portion.

10. The apparatus according to claim 9, wherein as the handle is rotated from the closed position to the open position to create separation between the top portion and the bottom portion the single use seal is simultaneously opened.

11. An apparatus for storing one or more electrodes for an automatic external defibrillator comprising:

a container including a top portion, a bottom portion, a cavity for accepting the one or more electrodes, and at least one lateral ridge extending outward from the clam shell container; and

a mechanically advantaged actuator to create separation between the top portion and the bottom portion as the actuator is manipulated and to simultaneously remove the single use seal.

12. The apparatus according to claim 11, further comprising a single use seal disposed between the top portion and the bottom portion.

13. The apparatus according to claim 12, wherein as actuator is manipulated to create separation between the top portion and the bottom portion the single use seal is simultaneously broken.

14. The apparatus according to claim 11, wherein the container comprises a rigid container.

15. The apparatus according to claim 14, wherein the container comprises a semi-rigid container.

16. A method for storing a plurality of electrodes for an automatic external defibrillator comprising:

- mounting the plurality of electrodes in a sealed container;
- coupling the plurality of electrodes to the automatic external defibrillator; and
- monitoring an impedance between the plurality of electrodes when in the sealed container.

17. The method according to claim 16, further comprising using a handle with a mechanical advantage to open the sealed container.

18. The method according to claim 17, further comprising simultaneously breaking a seal while opening the container.

19. The method according to claim 17, further comprising removing a seal from the sealed container while separating a top of the container from a bottom of the container.

20. The method according to claim 16, further comprising monitoring a state of the sealed container, said state including whether the sealed container is open or closed.